

To

Shri. B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

27TH March 2020

Respected Sir,

We appreciate the fact that you and your cabinet have initiated some measures to address the dire situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the prolonged 'lock-down' which will last for nearly a month will also create additional distress and possible starvation among a vast section of our population. It is imperative that the government take appropriate and expedited measures to address the onset of food, income, and medical insecurity among the people.

The government must undertake both notification and provisioning measures to ensure that a modicum of liveability is assured to the most disadvantaged citizens. We enclose a note which highlights some of the key food, income, and medical security measures that the government can undertake. We urge you to consider these seriously so that Karnataka's citizens do not suffer from this unprecedented threat to people's welfare.

Although the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package that was announced on 26th March, 2020 provides some measures, it leaves out large populations of persons who may not be covered under the various scheme. It is necessary that basic rights of food and essentials is provided to all persons irrespective of previous overage under Schemes.

We also urge that the approach be a ground up, coordinated approach, one which all ensure that every person in every ward, every village is concerned. As per the National Disaster Management Act, this has to be done by the District Disaster Management Authority and Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority.

Let every ward and village panchayat be given the resources and power to ensure food and shelter for all. At the District Level, the District Disaster Management Authority must be tasked with overall coordination and can include civil society representation as required. The State Disaster Management Authority can give overall guidelines.

We look forward to your response and to facilitating the implementation of these protective and provisioning measures, through the Urban and Rural local bodies and the District and State Disaster Management Authorities.

Expressing our solidarity with Government of Karnataka's efforts in tackling this pandemic, we remain,

Yours truly,

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Organisations:

All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU)

All Saints Church Welfare Association

Citizens Forum for Mangalore Development

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